Dear Jim, Add to my view current Congressional situation 8/14/75

It oftens happens that as I shave and make my pot of morning coffee I think of the day ahead so I can plan to come as close to doing what I intend as possible. This a.m. This morning I recalled that Floyd phoned yesterday to ask about coming today for me to read the paper he has prepared not as a brief but as a bill of particulars. It reminded me of other things, one of which disappointed me.

It is another reminder of the little-known factor that has often hurt what the "critics" might be able to do. It is one of which I've long been aware and always ignored. Jealousy.

You willrecall that at the Md. meeting, when you were present and the U VA people were paying no attention to all the good advice you were giving them I leaned on them a bit. Their attitude changed then. Or seemed to. I recall Purdy's comment that he found my willingness and generosity with my files exactly opposite what he'd been told. I told him then he should have questions about what he'd been told. We had a meeting at Floyd's party that night and worked out a specifif new approach and arrangement. It was my idea, it was agreed to, and it included no mention of me or any of my work.

They agreed to change their form, to stay away from all critics and their books so they could not be accused of engaging in promotion, and they were to be independent and to use an appendix of documents as support for their arguments. I d given them the appendix and they'd use documents instead of crediting my work.

I suggested that they select a short list of effective ppints a little longer than they thought they'd want to use and then consult with Sylvia Meagher, with an alternative asking her judgement on the list. They were ten to concult me to see if I thought of any that might be included and they were to write their bill. I agreed to read it for accuracy prior to completeion of the fianl draft. Then the documents.

I had to go to NYC 6/22/75. I went an hour early to be able to speak to Sylvia. I was on the phone with her an hour before Roger picked me up at the station. I told her what had happend at the meeting, the inabilities of these kids using the printed works of critics as their arguments, the situation in the Congress as I saw it and of my proposal that they seek her advice on their bill, etc. She begged off, saying she was too ill and tired and was about to leave for the summer at Fire Island. Anything was totally beyond her capabilities, she was that ill and exhausted.

I believed her and told the kids. It was thenargeed that those who were to have prepared the outline with her would do it alone. Purdy and Holm as I recall. They showed no signs of doing anythigg, stayed out of touch, so Floyd started this. Then Ed Byrne (Notre Dame) wanted a simplified form for the Congressional interns. I suggested that Floyd's work would need editing, so why didn't they get together, he edit this and then it could be gone over again as the final work, to be illustrated by dociments and done in such a way that it could be used, perhaps sold, on campuses. Agree. It was here and Ed did the agreeing. Floyd took him his draft and thereafter said he couldn't even get the return of a phone call.

Yesterday I gave you one or two xeroxes from the Congressional Record. What came back to me as I shaved is that one of these is the reworked old U Va crap, and it is a punk job, all promos for Thompson and Sylvia's books, and at the end it says it was edited by both Tink and Sylvia June 29, or the week after I spoke to Sylvia. She had what would appear to be a remarkable recovery for a not unselfish purpose.

Of the Virginians only the outcast, mark Allen, is willing to do real work. The others, whether just strong and wrong headed or plain dishonest, are so far as I am concerned worth not another minute. There is too much to do towaste time with loosers who are also liars. ...The old sense of deja vu. The old illustrations of why there can be not unity and the basis for all the baskbiting...As you told Wrone when we left that Md. meeting and he said I'd leaned on the kids kind hard, that wasn't leaning for me. If and when I see that gang again they'll learn about leaning. And ass this is competitive with what I regard as the only possible approach, too, of which I told you again yesterday.